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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Chief,
THRU : Acting
FROM : Chief,

ORR
ORR(12)

DATE: 10 May 1955

SUBJECT: Transmittal of ORR Report Project "Agricultural Situation
in Northeast Kazakhstan".

1. The attached report is in response to a request from
for information on crop harvests, as well as the general
state of agriculture since July 1953 in northeast Kazakhstan.
The information is presented per written instructions (reference
from Chief,

2. The subject of the memorandum (reference / from
was given as "Crop Failures in Soviet Central Asia".
This title has been changed in this report to "Agricultural
Situation in Northeast Kazakhstan", for the following reasons:

a. The 1954 harvest, in particular, was good -
far from a "crop failure".

b. The area of interest as defined in detail in
the memorandum is northeast Kazakhstan (part
of Economic Region Ia) rather than our definition
of Central Asia (Economic Region Xb).

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Agricultural Situation in Northeast Kazakhstan

The oblasts in northeastern Kazakhstan had favorable weather conditions during the 1954 crop season with resultant good crop yields. In general, above average yields characterized all the spring wheat belt extending into West Siberia and the northern oblasts of Kazakh, S.S.R. The six oblasts (Karaganda, Akmolinsk, Pavlodar, Semipalatinsk, East Kazakhstan, and Taldy-Kurgan) in northeastern Kazakhstan which lie in the area of prime interest, defined as east of 73° longitude and north of Lake Balkash, all reported in the last half of October, 1954, that they had fulfilled the state plan for grain procurement ahead of schedule. All six oblasts reported grain deliveries to the state to be greater than in 1953.

Considerably less information is available concerning the 1953 crop production in the area. This lack of information in comparison with 1954, probably is due to a combination of factors, such as mediocre crop production and, hence, less inclination to boast concerning successes, as well as the fact that the "new lands" program for grain expansion in West Siberia and northern Kazakhstan, with its accompanying publicity, was not announced until February 1954. Based on available information, it is estimated that crop production in 1953 in northeastern Kazakhstan was near average, but certainly below the level attained in 1954.

As noted above, these oblasts in northeastern Kazakhstan lie within the area of grain acreage expansion as outlined by the Soviets in their "new lands" program for the mastering of virgin and idle lands during the period 1954-56. Some lands was brought under cultivation during 1954 and further expansion is planned during the 1955 and 1956 crop seasons.

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Little detailed information is available concerning the livestock industry in these oblasts of northeastern Kazakhstan. The favorable 1954 growing season should have permitted satisfactory summer grazing and made possible the harvesting of fodder supplies for this past winter (1954-55). There were the usual reports, however, concerning lags and inefficiency on the part of the collective farms in setting up adequate feed reserves for the winter months. In general, however, nothing has been noted concerning any extraordinary failures or successes in the livestock industry of this region.